

Genesis 16 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - The Devastation of Doubt.

Genesis 16:1

In a time of famine, a lapse in Abram's faith caused him to leave the land where God had promised He would bless him, to seek relief in Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20). And yet Abram left Egypt "very rich" (Gen. 13:1-2), even securing the services of a handmaid for Sarai (Gen. 16:1). Here, in yet another lapse in faith, Abram bore a son by this Egyptian handmaid, and Ishmael would become the progenitor of many nations that are enemies of Israel to this day (Gen. 16:10-12). Though it may appear our lapses in faith have little present effect, the long-term consequences can be devastating. Dear Christian, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart," not only because it honors God, but because it will spare you much long-term heartache.

Read Psalm 37:3-5

☐ Tuesday - God's Sovereignty Over the Womb.

Genesis 16:2

In our previous study in Genesis 15 we read, "Abram said to God, 'You have given no offspring to me'" (Gen 15:3). Here, Sarai reiterates the same sentiment, "Now behold, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children" (Gen, 16:2). It is true, God's sovereignty rules over all (Psa. 103:19); yes, even over conception (cf. Gen. 29:31; 30:1-2, 17, 22).

Read Psalm 139:13-14

☐ Wednesday - God's Will, Done God's Way.

Genesis 16:13

God told Abram that he would have a son (Gen. 15:2-5), and Sarai and Abram thought they could "help" the Lord fulfill His plan by Abram taking Hagar as his wife and bearing a son through her. But polygamy has never been God's will. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, once said, "God's will, done God's, will never lack for God's supply.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

☐ Thursday - The God Who Sees.

Genesis 16:13

Hagar said to the Lord "You are a God who sees", Hebrew: El Roe (Gen. 16:13). Yes, "His eyes are upon the ways of a man, and He sees all his steps" (Job 34:21). "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13). We live *coram deo*, before the face of God.

Read Psalm 33:13-15

☐ Friday - The Angel of the Lord.

Genesis 16:7-13

Next we read, "Now the angel of the Lord found [Hagar] by a spring of water in the wilderness" (Gen. 16:7). Angels are spoken of numerous times throughout both the Old and New Testaments, but when preceded by the definite article, many believe "the angel of the Lord" refers to Christ; that is, a preincarnate manifestation of God the Son. The title "the angel of the Lord" is used 52 times in the Old Testament, but never again after Jesus' incarnation in the New Testament. The Hebrew word translated "angel" literally means *messenger*, and in Malachi 3:1 Christ is called the "Messenger of the Covenant". Here, the angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar, and said, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count" (Gen. 16:10). "Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are a God who sees'; for she said, 'Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?'" (Gen. 16:13). Read John 8:58